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ABSTRACT

This report contains the texts of six speeches, and recommendations of 15 citizen discussion groups from the 1976 Nebraska Conference on Library Services. The theme of the conference, "The Citizen Challenge," and discussion topics are based on concerns expressed by the 1,403 Nebraska citizens who were interviewed in a series of Statewide Hearing on Library Service. Definitions and recommendations are provided for the following areas of citizen concern: (1) individualized and special services; (2) publicity of library services; (3) availability of educational help; (4) nonbook materials and programs; (5) financial needs; (6) library cooperation; (7) outdated practices; (8) limited resources; (9) business and labor information needs; (10) public involvement in library planning; (11) planning library buildings for future community needs; (12) geographical distances hampering information dissemination in Nebraska; (13) levels of government responsible for different libraries; (14) duplication of services by libraries and agencies; and (15) provision of materials to all segments of the population. (KP)

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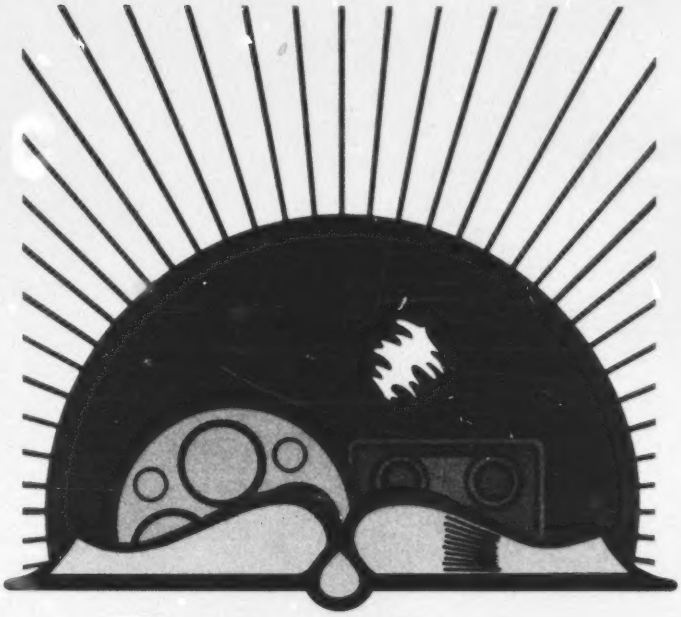

NEBRASKA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY SERVICES

PROCEEDINGS REPORT APRIL 27-28, 1976 LINCOLN

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Proceedings of the Governor's Conference are compiled with great appreciation for the willing gifts of time and talent from all the committee members. Many thanks are extended to those who made the Conference a success.

J. Alexi Shuman, Conference Coordinator

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NEBRASKA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY SERVICES

"Where human institutions are concerned, love without criticism brings stagnation and criticism without love brings destruction. And the swifter the pace of change, the more lovingly men must care for and criticize their institutions to keep them intact."
—John Gardner.

I overheard the above quotation used in one of the discussion groups at the Nebraska Governor's Conference on Library Services held April 27-28, 1976, at the Lincoln Hilton Hotel and it seems to be a most appropriate description of that event.

The following pages will show the care, suggestions and constructive criticism that Nebraska citizens bestowed upon their libraries to help bring change and improvement in library services.

This is a special thank you to all of the Conference participants, speakers, discussion leaders, resource persons and committee members. Your care and investments in behalf of libraries have created a tremendous opportunity and responsibility for implementing and extending quality library services to meet the needs of all Nebraskans.

Shirley Flack

Shirley J. Flack
Conference Chairperson

In preparation for the Governor's Conference on Library Services, called by Governor J. James Exon, the Statewide Hearings on Library Service were held. A converted bookmobile, dubbed the Information Powermobile, toured the entire state in an effort to obtain a citizen assessment of library services. During these Hearings, 1,403 persons were interviewed. Their recommendations and concerns formed the basis for discussion groups at the Conference.

"The Citizen Challenge," chosen as the theme of the Governor's Conference on Library Services, stressed the fact that this was primarily a citizen's conference rather than a librarian's conference. Three sponsoring organizations, the Nebraska Library Association, the Nebraska Educational Media Association and the Nebraska Library Commission, asked the citizens of Nebraska to accept the challenge by telling librarians what they wanted in libraries.

Nearly three hundred delegates representing a cross section of the population of the state participated in fifteen discussion groups. Each group accepted the "challenge" to tackle an area of interest and concern that had been pinpointed during the hearings.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

TUESDAY – APRIL 27, 1976

10:00 a.m.	Registration
1:00 p.m.	Opening Session *(Grand Ballroom)* Presiding: Shirley J. Flack, Conference Chairperson
	"Libraries and the Citizens" – Governor J. James Exon
1:15 p.m.	*"The Citizen Challenge"* – Alice B. Ihrig
1:45 p.m.	*"Your Chance to Speak Out"* – Dixie B. Talbot
2:10 p.m.	Discussion Groups *(Individual Meeting Rooms)*
3:15 p.m.	Break *(Poolside, Grand Ballroom, Fanny's)*
3:45-4:45 p.m.	Discussion Groups *(Individual Meeting Rooms)*
3:30 p.m.	Cash Bar
6:30 p.m.	Dinner *(Grand Ballroom)*
7:30 p.m.	Acknowledgements
7:35 p.m.	*"Government through Citizen Involvement"* – Lt. Governor Gerald T. Whelan
7:45 p.m.	*"An Anthology of Insignificant Incidents of International Significance"* – Dwight A. Nesmith

WEDNESDAY – APRIL 28, 1976

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast *(Grand Ballroom)*
9:00 a.m.	*"Presenting the Challenge"* – Dixie B. Talbot
9:15 a.m.	Discussion Groups *(Individual Meeting Rooms)*
10:45 a.m.	Break *(Coffee available – Poolside, Lower Level Foyer, Grand Ballroom, Parlours A & B – from 9:15-11:00)*
11:00 a.m.	*"Presenting the Challenge"* – Dixie B. Talbot *(Grand Ballroom)*
11:20 a.m.	*"Charge to Participants"* – Charles W. Stelling
11:30 a.m.	Adjournment
1:00-3:00 p.m.	Reception *(Governor's Mansion)*

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Welcome. I'm Shirley Flack, and it's my pleasure and privilege to call to order this Nebraska Governor's Conference on Library Services. As a librarian, one of my favorite quotes comes from the late author J. Frank Dobie, who said "the great reason for valuing reading and libraries is to have life more abundantly, to think more fully, to be in love more delightfully, and to use modern development more wisely." You are not being asked at this conference to express your value or high regard for libraries, but to articulate what you feel are the library service needs of Nebraskans. To give librarians a better understanding of what they could and should be doing to make your library more responsive to these needs. Your attendance here today signifies your interest, your concern, and we thank you for your willingness to speak out, to constructively criticize, to offer priorities, and hopefully some solutions.

The Governor of our state speaks far more eloquently than I on the subject of citizens as difference makers. I am pleased and honored at this time to present the honorable J. James Exon.

"Libraries and the Citizens"
—Governor J. James Exon

Shirley, thank you very much for those very warm words of introduction. You told me out in the hall when we were out there, that you were very nervous. I don't know what you were nervous about, here is one that is going to make a talk to some very, very dedicated people that have come to this working conference. I guess that is what makes it so important, this is going to be a working conference; and those of us who are decision makers in the state government are going to be looking forward to what you recommend out of this very, very important and I emphasis again 'working' conference. I say I don't know why you are nervous, Shirley, you know all about this. I'm here to make a talk to you today and I first admit that I don't know much of anything about running a library except that when I want or need something from a library I am very appreciative of the fact that there are people like you who are there to help those of us who always are seeking more and more knowledge. Although it is included in the prepared remarks that I am going to be delivering here in just a few moments, and I tell you that this is a short talk that the Governor is going to give you today (and that's good news, that's something different in itself), but it is a short talk, not only because I think that this is one of the most important conferences that I ever kicked off but more importantly, I want to save all of the time for the work and the work product that I know is going to come out of this very, very important meeting.

I really am delighted to see such a large gathering here today. I understand that you're going to be carrying out, this afternoon and tomorrow, a tremendously interesting program. Let me give you just a little bit of history without going back too far. In October of 1973 before this building that we're in now was finished as far as construction is concerned, we met at the Cornhusker Hotel and at that Nebraska Library Association Annual Convention I called for a Governor's Conference on Library Services. At that time I pledged my support to such a conference, if it were large enough to gain the meaningful input and if it were a conference for citizens and librarians working together. Certainly as I look out across this room today those conditions that I set down in 1973 have been very

enthusiastically met.

In the preparation for this conference a year and a half ago, Nebraskan librarians began to concentrate an effort to determine what you, as citizens of this state, felt should be the major concerns of those in charge of providing library services. At that time, I went before the public to ask for its help and its very vital input. With interest I watched as 1,400 persons took the time to express their opinions. The response varied from, and I quote, "the library is great, I wouldn't change a thing," to "the library system is uncoordinated, it lacks a central purpose." Although many persons gave generally favorable comments, almost without exception everyone felt that there were areas that needed improvement. With careful planning all of these comments were analyzed and compiled into discussion topics that you are going to be handling here today and tomorrow.

No public official, of course, likes to admit that his or her state is deficient in anything, especially when we reside here in Big Red Country. Yet if everything were alright, with regard to libraries in Nebraska, there would be no reason whatsoever for this conference. We would be going about our normal business satisfied that our libraries were in excellent shape, and in need of no improvement. But the citizen response to our inquiries, indicated that there are areas of concern for libraries. These concerns range from providing material for the rural resident who must drive 50 miles to the nearest library, to having the need for reference material for the student writing a master's thesis on nuclear energy. Every effort has been made to present all of the problems, no matter how controversial. And I would add that if there are any things in your kits or brochures that you think were not properly brought up or considered, the structure is not that rigid and we want you to bring that out during this very important conference.

But our purpose today is much broader than focusing only on some of these problems. It is one of a determination to move forward in solving anything and everything that has to do with the improvements of our libraries, and further improvement of them in the future. Library excellence, I suggest, is something that does not come along unless there are people prodding and encouraging even a greater range of acceptance and excellence in our library services. Now why is this all necessary? Well, there is a very central and a very simple reason for that. The citizens personal involvement with libraries has become reality in recent years. Parents are realizing that a child's ability to meet the tests to get into college is tied to the ability to read and read that which is related to the whole wide range of books that are available in our library to those of all ages. Cities are learning that industrial scouts use the community library as an index to the town's cultural level when they are seeking sights for new industries. New industries are something that we work on very hard in state government, and I frequently have conferences with those who have located plants in Nebraska, some of those who have not and some that we're working on at this very moment. Time and time again I hear the words, "not only do we want to meet this test and that test, Governor, but we're very much concerned about the climate and the cultural level that we place our plant or industry in," and certainly the availability of adequate library services, rates very high on their scale of rating a city or a community where they are considering locating a plant.

In addition to better educating the citizens, good libraries can mean a more prosperous community so there is a profit benefit motive; this we should always recognize and realize fully. The overhauling pressures of the technological age are making jobs obsolete in a few years and are sending men and women to the library for aid in adapting to new jobs or new roles in life. The desire to acquire more purchasing power or a higher standard of living is prompting many persons to enroll in adult education courses; or as we see today more and more of, those seeking self-teaching projects and studies. And there is where they, of course, rely keenly on the availability of a good library. Men and women with more leisure time are searching for more inexpensive forms of entertainment. Business and industry are using research reports and professional journals in libraries to follow new developments. The information explosion is producing tons of materials on the world's presses, about 1,000 new books each and every day. The citizen is overwhelmed and libraries are so burdened with the problem of selecting and storing information that they are hard pressed to meet the demands even with the aid of computers.

With the stimulus of this library services conference, you have the opportunity to take part in the necessary action to meet these needs. I want to assure you that the librarians and the Governor of this state will listen to your suggestions and we will use them in the implementation of long-range plans to improve and extend library services in our great state of Nebraska.

Change is affected in any area of life only when people feel an involvement. I am asking that you, now, today here and tomorrow in the Hilton Hotel to become involved in the library improvement even moreso than even most of the dedicated among you have done in the past. I am simply delighted at the response to this conference. We are all looking forward to the recommendations that you will make. Thank you so very much for asking me to be a part in this conference and I enjoy very much the role of coming here and saying welcome. Welcome to each and everyone of you, you are here to do a very important job, and we are expecting great things from you. Thank you very much, and have a great time.

"The Citizen Challenge"
Alice B. Ihrig

I think I ought to say to Shirley that I can always understand her nervousness. One is never quite sure what a politician will say. I say that from the vantage point of being a practicing politician, who enjoys it; and in the knowledge that every person in this room is either now or potentially a politician. More than any other time in our history we need people who will admit to an interest in government, a desire to participate in making the wheels go round; that is what a politician is. I hope that there are words like politician, lobbyist, and other such that you can regard as completely clean and absolutely necessary, so that we can get about the business of making your decisions from such conferences as this, and be put into effect at the political level, which believe me is where the action is.

Now my use of the phrase "where the action is" will strike some of you as having come from approximately the 60's. It takes me about that long to eliminate some of the colorful language which we pick up as we go along, for example: I'm still telling people to be aggressive and I understand that the new word is assertive. So, at least I've caught up on that one. But let me say that I do believe that that is where the action is and I hope that as I speak today, you will bear in mind that I'm expecting all of you to develop into the position of having what we in Illinois call 'clout' in your communities on behalf, of course, of libraries. I think it's an interesting position, as a matter of fact, to think of libraries, those fairly innocent, rather hallowed institutions as entering into the political picture. But in fact it is a very necessary step for us to make and I am delighted to see the range of people involved here, the geographical distribution that has been achieved. I am also very happy to see that the librarians are outnumbered by the rest of us.

I am not a librarian, I don't say that with any particular pride, you understand, but since it is part of this conference's job to place emphasis on citizen participation, citizen input, citizen critique, citizen opinion I think it is a very good position for me to be in. Therefore, I think I ought to tell you something first of all about librarians, so that if you are sitting next to one and you are going to be discussing with them the various problems, you ought to know the kind of people you are involved with. Librarians are not in the sense we are using today 'citizens'; they are in fact a kind of 'super people', probably more overlooked than almost any other profession, because they believe in doing good, and not too loudly. Librarians are the kind of people who will not talk very much about what they are achieving. They are not very noisy, they're not terribly good at clamoring for support. They are very likely to feel that they must prove their case before they can actually go to you for that additional support or money that you can give them. They are extremely able people, professionally; they are also and I must say parenthetically, generally underpaid and overworked. They are in fact that rare commodity, the public employee, who doesn't mind staying past the bell, who doesn't mind coming in on odd hours and odd days in order to complete a project. I would suggest to you that these very wonderful people are ruining libraries. This is the kind of performance that is quite unanticipated in the public sector today and because they have done it so well for so many years there is aboard, in the land, the concept that libraries manage to do miracles with no money at all. And we need to shift this kind of viewpoint if we are to have the kind of libraries which you will be talking about in this 2-day conference. We do indeed need resources, translate money; and librarians, I think, are going to have to get over the feeling that they can really perform miracles with very little funds. They've been doing it for far too long.

So, I hope that as you meet with librarians, talk with them, include them in your discussion, criticize them if you will, you will bear in mind that they are indeed an endangered species. This kind of dedication is all too rare in the public service area. I fight with librarians all the time, I hope you will too. We fight creatively from the stand point that you bring to this conference as citizens and that is as a user. You see the more demanding you are as a user, the more likely you are to liberate the librarians from this mold of perfection to which they have put themselves; force them to help you to make demands upon the resources which we have in states like Nebraska and indeed in Illinois. I would also hasten to add that although I am

from Illinois, I do not come as my husband put it inelegantly when he takes me to the airport, he says, "Alice, do not go and give one of your 'how we done it good in Illinois speeches'." Illinois is no more fortunate than Nebraska in its mix of people, resources, and achievement. We are indeed proud of what we have done, we also know that we are in this together and I hope that as you talk about your problems here you will understand that they cross all of the state boundaries, and that many of the things which trouble you or which you would like to see done in Nebraska are indeed troubling people in Connecticut and California, and all across the land. Illinois does not offer anything more than some experiences to be shared as I hope you will share the results of this conference with other states. I know that there are plans which will produce proceedings which will in fact do that.

Now if the librarians will turn off for just a moment, I want to talk to the people who are not librarians in the audience. I am not going to ask you where you are, because I think it would be nice if you did not reveal yourselves during the conference. I hope that the librarians would not run up any undue signals as to where they come from either. It would be nice if we didn't know to whom we are speaking, because the idea is to mix us and to talk about a lot of different things very freely in an open discussion, for which you are not responsible when you go home. This is really very much the time for you to lay it all out on the table, knowing that you are away from home, enclosed by the weather in an excellent meeting facility, where you can indeed dream a lot and I hope you will.

I think that sometimes as citizens we tend to drag our heels because we are aware, as you will prove in your own communities, of the restrictions which exist. We are the ones who are most likely to say taxes are indeed too high, or it is something we cannot afford, or it is something the community would regard as being way out or too advanced. I hope that you will drop all of those attitudes here, because part of the purpose of this conference is to lay out all of the things which you really would like to have done for you and by you in the communities that you represent in the state in which you live. The thing most important is to not feel any restrictions at all about the exciting things which you would like to have done, because it is again the fate of libraries to have many, many elegant ideas, exciting things which they would like to do but to be afraid of you the citizen, therefore reluctant to open up new paths. Libraries are doing a great many exciting things now, but sometimes they still hold back because they are not quite sure that, you the residents of their communities, will approve of what they are doing. You must show them in this conference that you are indeed willing to support some of the excitement, some of the changes, some of the extra services and some of the expenditure made necessary by the new libraries.

May I say also that you are also running into new librarians. There is abroad in the land a kind of subversive attitude which I think is the best thing that has happened to us in 200 years. I think that we are back now to people feeling that the best you can do with your life is to have a job that is interesting to you and in which you are happy and comfortable. The younger librarians, and indeed the older ones too, coming upon the scene are approaching their service in libraries from the standpoint of I want to like it, too. I want to be a part of the community where I may only temporarily be employed. I want to enjoy, to participate, to listen, to learn, even though I may be only fleetingly in a given community. One of the great opportunities that those of you who sit on library boards have is the opportunity to tap that level of person. They are different, they are changing, they are exciting and the only problem is that they may be difficult to add to a staff because they are not anxious to spend 20 years at the page girl level. You will find that they process through your community; that you will have them for a short time and that during that period you will need to tap that talent and utilize it. This is an area in which I hope you will be alert to the possibilities to adding some excitement to your libraries, by involving some of the new and exciting people who are entering the library field; because it is indeed a chosen career for them, something they enjoy doing.

I mentioned earlier that librarians are underpaid, I really did expect great applause, there must not be that many librarians out there as I thought. I think here again as a citizen responsibility, it is important for you to recognize that when you are making demands upon this service unit, the library, you are making demands upon people much more than on machines. It is true that we can give you sophisticated computer techniques; the technology is growing and there are many tools to be used. The real heart and soul of the library is still in the people who run that library. It's in their creativity, it's in their responsiveness to your community, it's in their recognition of what needs to be done and the possibilities of libraries. I have often said that when you really come down to it, that there are times when you cut the book budget in order to hire another librarian. Because it is the librarian who uses what you have purchased and makes it presentable to the public and valuable to the public. These are concerns which you need to have as you talk about the exciting things we can buy, think of the exciting librarians you can buy right along with it, because it is a people industry; no questions about it, it is a very personal service.

I might point out that it is not every profession or

every area of government which would allow itself to be critiqued and criticized by you in this kind of conference. How many times have you been invited to a conference in which you were allowed to criticize the local government, county government, the garbage collection, the way in which water is supplied? Not very many units of government are as willing to expose themselves to your slings and arrows. I think it is because the librarians are really aware of the centrality of the library in today's world. The Governor made reference to this. The uses that are being made to a library are so much more extensive, so much more meaningful, if I may use another 60's word, and also much more important to your community than ever before. It is only now dawning upon a lot of people that if you need something, it is the library that can give it to you or direct you to it. That there is no other institution which so well encompasses the fields in which people now have to be interested. So that we are turning the libraries into real information centers, at the same time we are careful to stock every last Agatha Christie. I think perhaps this is an area in which you may want to have some discussion. And that is, what is the service problem of a library.

You know as different as you all are, coming from many professions and many areas of the state, think of the number of people in your community who are very different from you. And think of all of them seeing a library as the first place to go for help, information, education, and recreation. If you will think of a library from that standpoint, you will than begin to see the great problems that libraries have that are going to be caused, hopefully, by you; because libraries must make these adjustments to the changing demands of the community. This makes it particularly important that they seek help in finding out what are the needs of the community. This is what you are doing. Quite frankly if the needs of the community are for long lists of reading in the mystery and science fiction areas, so be it. I hope you will not feel that you must sacrifice all in order to have a computer, if your community really wants other things from that library. The point is that we do not all have to be the same. There are communities which differ in their needs or at least in the priority of their needs. I think the most comforting thing that could happen to a library is to know that the garden club is quite satisfied, the coin club is happy, the gem polishers have what they want and at the same time there is somewhere in the background a very sophisticated method, be it a computer or otherwise, of getting very esoteric material for people who do require it and getting it fast and accurately from all across the country. We do not have to think of our communities as being filled with little pink plastic libraries which we just plant, all alike throughout the state of Nebraska. Come to think about it the pink plastic would not look too well with all this red country. I meant to change my description of these, would you believe little yellow libraries.

The tendency sometimes at conferences like this, is to try to draw up sort of a perfect library which you will then replicate all over the state. I would urge you not to do this. You will get many ideas from other people, but be sure you always have in the back of your mind—my community, my region, make your community larger than your own community. Certainly the idea is that you are very specifically here to represent what you know from being a listening post in your community. You are not here by random, we didn't pick you out of telephone books, you are people who have displayed either a great interest in libraries or a dismal lack of interest in libraries. I leave you to figure out which one applies to you. Your invitations committee did not try deliberately to find the world's greatest users, necessarily, but looked instead for the kind of mix which would be productive in this kind of situation. Let me tell you too, we aren't trying to make libraries the great perfection, the great center of the universe or any of this sort; and yet, in a way, this is exactly what your library is becoming in a community. I think it is one of the few governmental institutions which has had the courage to change with the tide. And to make many, many decisions about serving people which may not have been popular if you had to vote on them. I think that those of you who are users know that your library has very gradually but very positively moved into the area of supplying some very controversial material. That you can indeed seek out and obtain information on both sides of controversial issues. That there has been no dodging of what is happening in the country and how we need to discuss this in order to celebrate our bicentennial in its real sense. Libraries have had courage, they just haven't talked about it a lot. This is an area in which you might want to ask yourself how libraries have changed and if it is a direction which you approve, which I'm sure it is, and how further we can go down that line of supplying the basic decision making factual material.

When the Governor speaks of receiving material from the library he is talking about decision making in a very high level. You should be talking about decision making at the level of your own community, where school boards and community councils are making extremely important decisions and often without a single fact. Now I say that because I have served on my village board. I went to my village board with the anticipation that this would be an enormously interesting job, in which a great deal would happen because we would all debate everything from every standpoint and then we would make great and lasting decisions of high merit. That is not how decisions are made at the village board level, and I should have known it, you see. The way decisions are made by local officials

is quite frequently on the telephone. If we didn't have the telephone things might be better. What happens is that one of the trustees which is what we call them in my community, councilmen, will call another councilman and say we've got this zoning matter agenda on Tuesday; what are you going to do about it? The other person says, "I really don't know what I'm going to do about it. I haven't really looked at it. I've got three phone calls against it," and the other persons says "well, then I guess we had better be against it." There is an awful lot of bending to noise and confusion, and walking away from decisions which ought to have been buttressed with facts. I hope that you will talk about your library as a service, of considerable help to local officials, who ought to be even if they are not, seeking strong factual basics for their decisions.

I think too that we need to look at the whole student level in their use of libraries. We so often consign the students to the schools and forget that we will find them in public libraries probably more frequently than we find them in some school libraries. Partly because of the hours and partly because it is a comfortable place to be. School libraries have changed, of course, into media centers, very exciting places, but unfortunately, they too suffer from an absence of money and have to close down at precisely the moment that someone discovers that his paper is due on Monday, and he has now 24 hours to do something about it. Public libraries are giving a great deal of help and assistance to people who are categorized as students, to young people of all kinds. This is an area which I hope you will address yourselves to the problems of what do libraries do about the influx of young people needing fairly sophisticated kinds of services, in libraries that clearly are not able to handle the mob scene; and what do we do about this kind of problem for your young people.

You see whether we decree the fact that they can't all read as well as we thought they could, the fact that they do perhaps not graduate quite as competently as we thought, nonetheless a great deal of education does go into young minds today. They are coping with an enormous mountain of information, and they have great difficulty in locating sources for this; and only the library in a school or in a public sense makes any real effort to provide that kind of information. It is the elusive information, much of it is not contained in books, believe it or not, much of it has to be equipped and taken from pamphlets and xeroxed, that is a courtesy commercial, and there are so many sources which a library can tap into on demand, which we never realize.

I always suggest to citizens who have not used their libraries a great deal, or who have used them primarily for recreational reading that you put something to your library. Ask a difficult question; who won the World Series in 1906 is my favorite question. I now know the answer, of course; I am waiting for the librarian who comes back and gives me an answer which is different from the one that the other librarians have given me. But I really suggest that you pursue something with your librarian to see how the service pattern works. If you are asking for assistance in a craft or a historical project, or genealogy, whatever it is that interests you, do go to the library and watch the process as it comes down; see to what sources that library goes, notice how much time it takes, value the expertise of the librarian who is turning all her/his attention to you as a user at that moment. It is an instructive experience to use the library in some way in which you have not ordinarily used it, new ways to get the information you want, and the services you want. Look around a little bit at some of the exciting things that are happening in libraries. There are some programs which are extremely interesting and which I'm sure you will dream of by yourself.

I was amused incidently at the description of the source of library tax, 2 cents on a glass of beer, or was it only 1 cent, in your pamphlet. I would suspect in Nebraska 1 cent would raise several million dollars, especially if you could be sort of a weigh station for Coors beer; this could be quite interesting. The fact of the matter is is that the money is out there and it is a question of finding ways to do it. I have always thought that rather than take a penny off of every beer, it might be wise to sell beer in libraries and take the whole profit. If you think I'm being outrageous chalk it up to Illinois style politics. Also I want to tell you that my library for a long time was the only one in the country, that I know anything about that owned a tavern. We bought some land on which there was established a very fine family tavern, not a saloon, mind you, there is a difference. It was the one everyone hit on the way home from the train before they could face their wives and children. We bought it and didn't want to close it prematurely; for one thing, it was a profit making industry. We could use the profit, most of it then went into the collection, quite properly. At any rate we owned the tavern at the time that we were getting ready to build our building. Any of you who have ever gone through a building of a school or a library or a business establishment will know that this is the time in which you test every friendship. Because there is no agreement and you fight a lot. We always found that after our meetings it was very comfortable for us to move over to our property and examine it. The highest compliment I think that we have ever received was when we had to finally tear down the tavern because we are now building on the sight of the tavern; and the tavern owner, having had this long and pleasant association with us, went two blocks down the street where he has now opened a new tavern which he now calls the "Library." That is

a very high compliment and we took it as such and the only problem is we did explain to him it was somewhat more difficult for us to go to his tavern now, since we had to walk two blocks; and it was he who suggested we ought to have a beer and a book at the library. Libraries are doing things like this. I know a library that very carefully got around the Illinois law that says you can't serve liquor on public premises by keeping it in a locked door and then, when it had it's various meetings, it would invite some of the village officials over and we would all have a slightly illegal drink.

Things like this are happening in libraries. We are loosening up and I am not suggesting that you convert the back half into a tavern, although it worked pretty well for us. I'm not suggesting that you convert it into a parking lot although Flint, Michigan Library is built on top of a parking garage in downtown Flint. There are all sorts of things where libraries have changed that image that we always have of them, which is nice and neat libraries plumped in the middle of a loft of grass which is always the only decent lawn in town. They are becoming very much working areas, where lots of things are happening. Where you can, for example, borrow many things. We opened a tool borrowing operation, copying this from others who are doing this all the way across the country. Small tools are no problem, nobody really wants a wrench, you only need it once you see. The biggest problem was with the lawn mower which we bought. It was a lemon to begin with. People would take it home, planning to cut their grass and an hour or so later they would be back telling us this was, in fact, not working. This was not a very good public relations venture; however, we solved it. We finally noticed that one of the workmen who had been borrowing out tools seemed to be highly skilled and we asked him to borrow the lawn mower. It didn't work for him either, so he fixed it. Thereafter everything was fine. There are libraries that are loaning animals for example, I think you probably have plenty of space for animals in Nebraska but there are many places where children are not permitted to have an animal and it is a good experience for them. We have a children's librarian who has convinced her substantial clientele that the finest thing you could do over the weekend is to take home one of our rabbits. She doesn't want to come in and take care of the rabbit over the weekend, so it goes home with the child. She has a rule, however, and the rule is if you take home one rabbit, one rabbit is all you can bring back.

Well, it's easy to scout across the country, and see what libraries are doing with these funny little services; and these things they are doing, are certainly those that evolved from a need in a given community. You may not want to harbor rabbits, you may wish to do something totally different. But in talking during the day, do remember that libraries are open to this kind of service, a very personalized kind of thing, and they are willing to do it for very small groups of people. You may not have to say to yourself, does this serve everyone? Libraries have never served everyone, but they serve everyone in different ways. So that your objective is to have people know that the library is where they can get what they want. Your job, today and tomorrow, is to reflect what these people do want and to scheme some ways in which through citizen effort and citizen input you can get your libraries in a position to carry out some of these priorities you are putting together for them.

I am enough of a flagwaver this year, to feel that the bicentennial has given us a major opportunity despite all the souvenirs and painted fireplugs. It has given us a great incentive to look at ourselves as participating citizens, to recognize that the country did indeed from the very beginning call for a degree of involvement, even sacrifice, from the people who wish to be a part of it. Certainly the entry into the entire service picture is open to everyone of us. There is room for us to get on and be where the gears are moving. You have chosen through your attendance here to be attached to the library picture. To feel that libraries are important or, at least, to come here to find out why libraries are important, and why they should be more important to you. This is a splendid way to really participate in the bicentennial. Because you are doing something that is unique to this country, and that is helping to run the country from a citizen base, rather than from the top.

I think that our recent experiences have shown to us there is great strength in the American people. They can do almost anything they want to do. Our job is to get it all together. To find ways in which to influence the decision making in our local communities, in which to be a part of the process, in which to be influential and, yes, even be 'clout' happy. To stretch in effect the things that we want for our neighbors and our friends and ourselves, into services which do in fact reach everyone in the community. This is the overall objective—citizen participation is the fact that as diverse as we may be we are entitled to these services. We in fact have a right, not only constitutional but through our labors through the history of the country to these kinds of services. It is your job to see how much of it we can put together, how much of it we can finance, how much of it we can manage to operate in the pursuit of something which libraries have almost uniquely—and that is the concern for the individual. In no other institution, particularly governmental, do I see as much concern for each individual person in his contact with the library bureaucracy. When you walk into a library, you are indeed somebody, no matter how strange your request or how difficult, someone tries very hard to do it and to do it not for twenty

people but for you because you need it. This is an extremely important thing about libraries which cannot be matched by the sewer department, the water department, or even unfortunately the schools. The concern for the individual and his right to knowledge and his desire for services, you get it from libraries and you get it so much less expensively than from any other source that I could not imagine what could replace the usefulness of a library in the community.

I think libraries do not enjoy, perhaps, the image which we would like to have. Forward moving, exciting places to be; we are working on it very hard and that's part of your job too. I think that we do have sort of a halo effect which says that libraries are good and every community ought to have one just so I don't have to pay for it. That is part of your job; to help libraries change the direction, change the appearance they have, change their position in the community to a higher level, one that is more used by people.

I think I'll tell my favorite story about images and then I will end. I fly around the country a great deal and I have a tendency to do this on the early morning flight which is generally filled with nothing but men attached to brief cases. The stewardesses ignore the women quite generally because there may be only two of us on the plane. The men do not enjoy particularly good service, I must say, but nonetheless they are there; and the pilot comes on and he does not say "Ladies and Gentlemen," he says "Gentlemen." One day I was making such a flight when the stewardess came nipping down the aisle with her collection of magazines (which some librarian should help the airlines to select); and she paused in front of me and without asking me what I wanted to read, she handed me a **Better Homes & Gardens.** Well, I have no objection to that magazine, as a matter of fact the recipes are quite good when I have time to cook, but I was not going to take this sitting down, so I said in my most derogratory tone, I guess, I said, "please I am not interested in women's magazines I should like to have **Business Week.**" She looked at me rather funny and she didn't quite know what to do about it. "Well," she said, "you look like somebody's mother." Well, indeed I do. In a sense so do libraries and so do librarians in many ways, in that we are so reliable and we are so much accepted that we do not stand out and therefore people many times ignore our needs and our directions and our potential. You are not going to do that today. Thank you.

ALICE B. IHRIG, *from Oak Lawn, Illinois, is very active in local, state, and national library organizations. Her current offices include membership on the Advisory Committee to the Illinois State Library, the American Library Association Committee on the White House Conference, and the Executive Board and Council of ALA (the only non-librarian so serving). Mrs. Ihrig received her B.S. in Education from the University of Minnesota. She has been employed in public relations, worked as a teacher, been a newspaper reporter and editor. A frequent speaker at library conventions, she devotes most of her free time to the improvement of library services. She is presently employed as Community Agent for the Moraine Valley Community College.*

"Government through Citizen Involvement" –
Lt. Governor Gerald T. Whelan

Ladies and gentlemen I am delighted that you had an opportunity to hear the Governor this noon, because this is his conference. It probably wouldn't do to have the Lieutenant Governor give you greetings since this is the Governor's Conference. The second bit of good news I have for you is that I am scheduled to speak for 10 minutes. It is not my habit to speak longer than that, in fact it's generally my habit to speak shorter than that.

I suppose the move to accelerate people involvement in government at all levels came about with Watergate, but we certainly have had this involvement for the past 200 years. That's what democracy is about. It hasn't always worked as well as it should; we haven't had the degree of involvement that we would like. Some of it perhaps, has been too intense. I suspect that there has been an acceleration of this because of the many related things of the past 4 or 5 years. We have some members of the legislature for instance who feel that their sole role is to reflect what their constituents desire. They run into very obvious problems right off. Number one, it's virtually impossible to find out what your constituency really wants. You get telephone calls, letters, and postcards, but there is no way to determine that they accurately reflect the cross section of your district, your city, your constituency, whatever it is. Absolutely no way. As a matter of fact the reverse might be true, that it's a special interest group which is feeding letters, postcards, or telephone calls into the representative. Another very difficult problem is to determine for yourself if you happen to be the representative, whether you are on a library board, or a librarian, or a state senator, or a member of the board of regents, does the constituent have the advantage of the knowledge, and the information that you do? You were elected, appointed or you serve for a purpose. Part of your obligation is to acquaint yourself with all the facts. Isn't there an obligation on you then to exercise your best judgment? Are you free to substitute your good judgment for that of your constituent who may not be as well informed as you are? So it seems to me that the public input should always be welcome, all of us should be for open government, and libraries are government. We should open it as wide as possible so that we can have public input, so that we can gain knowledge. We have to know more about libraries and library services. We don't know everything about roads. We don't know everything about the treatment of the mentally ill, or the education of children. We must have public involvement to get that information. But don't let public officials cop out and allow the public to make the decision. I think the public should make its decision at the polls, when they elect their representative to make an informed judgment. We people in areas of responsibility, I suspect that's everybody in the room then, should take the responsibility of making a hard decision and we can't cop out. If we do cop out we ought to eliminate 49 state senators and substitute a computer. If the function of a state senator is to find out if 49% or 51% feel a particular way about a particular issue, then why go to the trouble of having state senators when a computer will do a far better job and the rhetoric would not suffer either. I think it's a popular thing to say; "my district feels this way, I have to vote that way because my district felt that way." How do they know? They have no way of knowing that for sure.

The publics' involvement is now mandated by the federal government in most programs. We have programs all through state government which actually require not just public input, but public advocacy. We must set up procedures and offices where the people advocate for a particular point of view, the hope being that that point of view is contrary to that of the governments or those people making the decisions. I am not against this, but this is the way the federal government is going. All funds now connected with the federal government will carry the absolute statutory requirement that some form of advocacy be set up as some form of an overview of the program.

I suspect that the biggest need in libraries and library services is not citizen input but library outgo. Maybe it is affirmative action that we are looking for. It's affirmative action that we are talking about, the people who hold positions of responsibility even though it's more costly really, than to send out questionnaires to find out how people feel; that we go out in an affirmative action plan of some sort to find out the needs of our constituency or the needs of those we serve and then fulfill the need. The simplest way I can explain it I suspect, is – it's not enough to have an open door to your library or to your government.

First of all you have to open the door and then

stand there and very loudly shout "you all come in". If we can do that in all phases of our public life we are going to solve a lot of problems. I don't think we should feel too guilty about the fact that maybe we don't fill all of the needs. Some of them are probably goofy anyway, I wouldn't worry, we have got a lot of goofy people in the world, they're not all in the Nebraska legislature and they're not all Lieutenant Governors either. I am about half goofy half of the time. We shouldn't feel guilty simply because we don't respond to every need that we find. Some people are wrong. Just because they are a voter or a taxpayer doesn't make them right all the time. There are a lot of people who are wrong and we have to have the courage to say, "I'm sorry, but I don't buy it." I think if we can adopt the true open door policy as I describe, we are going to solve a lot of problems.

I want to congratulate the leadership for this conference for what appears to be a truly outstanding event. Ginny and I have enjoyed visiting with so many old and new friends. I wish you every success tomorrow. Thank you.

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GERALD T. WHELAN, *a native of Hastings, is the first Lieutenant Governor elected under the new "team" concept. He and Governor J. James Exon were elected on November 5, 1976 for a four year term. Prior to his election, he served on many community and public service boards of his home town, and at the time of his election was the President of the State Board of Education. Jerry Whelan graduated from Hastings High School, the University of Nebraska and received his law degree from Creighton University.*

DWIGHT NESMITH—*An Anthology of insignificant incidents of international significance*

Really, that wasn't much of an introduction for a person of my importance. However, I have learned from my broad experience as a public speaker to expect this kind of thing, so I came prepared with an introduction which I feel is going to come a good deal closer to doing me justice. And so, with your permission, I'll use it at this time.

Our speaker this evening is a man of wide reputation and although his name is well known to all who are gathered here, it might be well to review for you his background since his rise to his present high position. From the humblest of beginnings—a stirring tribute to the fact that this land of ours is truly a land of opportunity—Dwight Alvin Nesmith was born in Kechi, Kansas, just a few short years ago, where his father was Methodist minister. If you can think of any humbler beginnings that that, I'll put in with you. The little parsonage where this momentous event took place still stands today close to the bustle and noise of Wichita, just 80 miles due south of the boyhood home of Dwight Eisenhower at Abilene.

Dwight Alvin was one of five children and his early years were happy ones filled with friendly competition with his brothers and sisters at the dinner table for food. The fact that he has two brothers each of which weigh in excess of two hundred pounds is sufficient evidence as to how these battles usually ended.

In the years before the war our honored guest studied accounting and worked in such important positions as grocery clerk at the A & P, office boy for the Cudahy Packing Co., and bookkeeping clerk at a bible bookstore. By skimping and saving and burning cut-rate gas in his convertible, he worked his way through one-and-a-half years of business school before his country called him to duty. They called and called and finally, ten months after Pearl Harbor, he went. He enlisted in the United States Air Force and due to the fact that even flight surgeons have a sense of humor, qualified for flight training. His physique was officially described as 135 lbs. of bone and muscle plus two pounds of fighting heart.

He received his pilot's wings and his commission, being declared an officer and a gentleman by an act of Congress, which was, of course, merely the recognition by a group of politicians of a fact previously established by nature. He served in the Pacific as a pilot of a B24 and, because of his adherence to the principle set forth in the motto of the four hundred and thirsty-first bombardment squadron, quote, "He who fights and runs away, will live to fight another day!" end quote. He attained the rank of squadron coward. Certain of his detractors have claimed that he was the world's largest coward. This is not true. The title of Seventh Air Force Coward was held by a Lt. Spider Bean from Philadelphia. He fell off the back of a truck on his way to the airport to fly his first mission and broke his leg. There are those of us who claimed he had jumped. The title of West Pacific Coward was held by a Japanese kamikaze pilot with 100 missions to his credit. Shortly after Nesmith returned to the United States, the war ended in spite of the fact that in those days we had France and China on our side.

After his discharge in 1945 he enrolled at Northwestern University in mechanical engineering, graduated in the fall of 1948 and went to Kansas State as an instructor. His prime reason for accepting the position was his desire to do missionary work among the natives in his home state.

He instructed for three years in mechanical engineering bringing pleasure and satisfaction to hundreds of students through his scintillating presentation of such fascinating courses as thermodynamics, heat power and steam and gas engineering. For the past 25 years he's been employed in the College of Engineering and in this capacity he's become known from Holton to Hoxie, and from Baxter Springs to Burning Privie. And it's certainly one of the high points of my career to have the privilege of introducing to you, Kansas' own native son, patriot, scholar, teacher and orator, Dwight Alvin Nesmith.

Thank you very much.

You know, automation is posing new problems for us. Machines can do almost anything and as usual, some are for it and some are against it. For example, the automationists are working on a new computer that you can program by talking to it which opens up all kinds of possibilities. We can envision a completely automated dictaphone-typewriter combination which would eliminate the demand for office secretaries. But the humanists aren't going down without a fight. They countered with a very clever device of their own

which greatly increased the demand for office secretaries—called hot pants. And in a like manner, I understand that some of the waitresses in the big city restaurants, attacking the problem from the other end, have come out with even more drastic measures to fight the use of vending machines. Now the only way to cope with rapid change is through "broad" generalization.

Our studies have to be based on finding the key underlying principles instead of memorizing a bunch of details and facts which become obsolete with each new discovery or social advance. So this evening, I've selected some of those great basic truths, the essence of a four-year college education, and with your permission I'd like to present them at this time.

You know, it's been estimated that half of what we learn in college becomes obsolete in just seven years. And glancing around this room, I'd like to suggest I hadn't gotten here a moment too soon. Now a good place to start any such general study as this would be with the study of history, because it is through the study of history that we can learn of the mistakes that previous generations have made, so we can embrace them and repeat them, and we don't have to go around thinking up a whole new bunch of mistakes for this generation to make.

Now, of course, a good place to start talking about history would be at the beginning. Adam and Eve had it pretty good. They lived in this garden apartment with no noisy neighbors to bother them; they had all the food they wanted, a beautiful climate. Eve didn't have to do any washing or ironing. They had this new wrinkle-free, drip-dry, wash 'n' wear fabric. They never had to dress for dinner.

Of course, they got lonesome every now and then. There wasn't anyone to fight with except each other. Eve would get cross and tell Adam that if she had it to do all over again, she wouldn't marry him even if he was the only man on earth. Adam had a bunch of stories he would've like to tell at cocktail parties, like bringing Eve up and introducing her by saying "You want to see my operation?"

But things were going along pretty good until one night after supper, Adam said, "How come we never have any apple pie?" Well, that bugged Eve a little, but at least he didn't say, "like mother used to bake." Well, the reason they never had any apple pie was the apples were all way up in that tree and Eve couldn't reach them. But being a good wife, she wanted to please her husband so she got this snake and trained it to climb the tree and pick the apples for her. And so Adam got his apple pie.

In fact, being a good wife, Eve did everything she could think of to please her husband. And one thing led to another. After a while it got so wild around there the landlord evicted them.

This, of course, created the first recession, which wasn't relieved until Eve got the idea of selling apples to Adam, thus establishing the first profession. Ever since, the daughters of Eve have been found on the street corners in the big cities selling apples. So you can see, it was really apple pies that caused all the trouble. But you know how rumors get started. And so, when St. Patrick came along, he blamed all this sin on the snakes and he ran them all off. There was a big shortage of apple pies until Sir Isaac Newton solved the shortage by inventing gravity.

Now, of course, you remember reading about Samson. He was the husky young fella who got into college on an athletic scholarship. But he didn't like the way the administration was running things, so he began to throw his weight around. So the good guys were winning for a while, until he fell for this rich young sorority girl who conned him into getting a haircut so he wouldn't bug the old folks. After that, you didn't hear much about Samson until he let his hair grow out and came in busting college buildings.

Speaking of Samson and the long hair fad, in the interests of saving energy, so much of which is being wasted with use of hot combs and things like that, I've started a haircut of my own. It's called the "Kojak Clip" and glancing about the room, it's gratifying to note that it's beginning to catch on.

Now it was quite some time ago that Archimedes first attracted worldwide attention streaking through the streets of Syracuse wrapped in a skimpy bath towel, shouting "Eureka! Eureka!" Actually almost anyone could have attracted attention that way. That's not what we remember him for. What we remember him for is what it was he was hollering "Eureka" about. He had just discovered that if you fill the bathtub to the brim, and then step into it, water slops out on the floor. This is known as Archimedes' principle. Although it doesn't seem like much of a discovery to us, it was a pretty important thing at the time.

I'm sure you all remember reading about the Crusades. That was when good King Richard the Lionheart got embroiled in this feudal war with the heathens a long way from home. It was written up in the Washington Post, even though I expect that the Omaha World Herald didn't give it much of a play. Anyway, the slogan on the enlistment posters at the time said, "Help make the East safe for Easter!"

The war dragged on for years. Nothing ever really got settled. But since the king spent all his time going off to foreign countries and vacationing at his, you know, like his castles—Like the Northern Castle at Balmoral, the Southern Castle at Dover and the Western Castle at Conway—instead of staying at home at Buckingham Palace and taking care of domestic problems.

Boy, there was a lot of violence and unrest at home. Nobody thought much of Prince John, the vice president, who King Dickie left in charge while he was away. And so Robin Hood and a dissident priest named Friar Tuck and the rest of the Sherwood Seven became folk heroes for opposing him. But even though

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Robin Hood was popular with the peasants, he never did get elected king.

You see, the Sheriff of Nottingham sent his men out to Sherwood Forest to spy on Robin's headquarters. They uncovered evidence that he meant to steal from the rich and give to the poor. I think $1000 a year was the figure they mentioned most often. But, of course, they used that against him in the campaign. And so, even though Robin Hood and his merry men —by the way that was another charge that was never proven—tried to make this Sherwood Forest Affair a campaign issue, the Sheriff of Nottingham never really put his heart into the investigation. And besides, they needed all these Sherwood strolls to heat the castle that winter because they had chopped off all the firewood in the country to make arrows for the army. There was a fuel shortage.

Of course, for a long time, King Dickie claimed he didn't know a thing about it. You know, he never really did say he was sorry. But the truth is, they convicted Prince John, the vice president. But since he pled guilty in Latin, he didn't have to go to jail or anything. It was about that time the Sheriff of Nottingham invented that very famous slogan, "If arrows are outlawed, only outlaws will have arrows."

Now, of course, one of the most important events in history as far as we are concerned was when King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella sent Columbus out with three shiploads of surplus wheat for Red China. He ended up taking a wrong turn at the Azores and delivering it to Castro in Cuba instead. Turned out to be a pretty good deal for King Ferdinand. He bought it, you remember, for $1.09 a bushel and sold it for $3.50. Of course, the Earl of Butz, who was vacationing at a ski resort at the time, said, "If bread gets to be a dollar a loaf, let 'em eat cake." Some of the farmers protested this, but nobody did anything about it for quite awhile. Protests, you see, aren't really a new thing.

Galileo became famous during a civil rights demonstration in Pisa for throwing rocks off the top of this crumbling, highrise tenement. It was this simple incident that later led to Newton's work on gravity. Later on, Galileo accidentally picked up a microscope by the wrong end, so when he looked through it, everything looked bigger instead of smaller. Thus, he invented the telescope and made some remarkable discoveries about the stars. But he got into trouble with his Sunday School teacher.

He claimed the moon was made of green cheese, so he had to stay after school and write "Copernicus is a Protestant" one hundred times on the board. Newton also studied the moon quite a bit, but he didn't get into any trouble because Episcopaleans just aren't very strict.

I mentioned Newton a couple times already. He's a pretty famous person, but I wouldn't want you to get the idea that he was a hero. You see, besides inventing gravity, he also invented calculus, which gives you a much better idea of the kind of a guy he really was. The reason I'm bringing him up here now, I think there's a lesson to be learned from Newton's fooling around with the laws of nature.

Now I'll admit his idea was pretty good for getting apples out of trees, but it sure raises Cain for a fella who's climbing a mountain and his foot slips. I think Newton should have thought of that before he went before the Parliament and got the Magna Carta amended to read, "What goes up must come down." This has turned out to be another one of those agricultural programs which is great for farmers but tough on everybody else. But even more important, it's the law of gravity that makes it tough when you want to go to the moon or some place like that.

We finally solved that problem. Really the principle is pretty simple: if you take something like a baseball and throw it up in the air hard enough, it gets out there beyond the 25-mile limit where the law of gravity is not enforced. We do this with rockets. Actually it would be a little easier if you would take it some place like Florida or Siberia. Then, you see, you can just throw it off the edge, it falls down and that helps explain weightlessness. The Russians did this first. They threw a sputnik, which means "little potato," off Siberia, and we threw a grapefruit off Florida because they're real cheap down there. Then the Russians threw a dog off into space and that caused a lot of comment. But it was never really proven whether they picked him up by the ears to throw him—which is the humane American way. Now we've learned to throw bigger and bigger stuff and it's all radio-controlled so you can throw curves and sliders. Then we invented communication satellites so Ma Bell could get the wires high enough so kids can't shoot off the insulators with 22's.

Did you ever stop to wonder why George Washington was elected to the presidency without opposition? Especially against such outstanding contenders like Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Alexander Hamilton, Harold Stassen, Hubert Humphrey. Well, he established a precedent by refusing to debate his opponent on T.V. Besides, he had all the earmarks of a truly great president. He was a rancher with a rich wife. But most important, they had this very simple test to determine the man with the best qualifications for the job. All of the candidates lined up on the banks of the Rappahannock River, and George proved that he could throw money farther than any of them. That record went unchallenged for nearly 200 years, until Johnson came along. That was Walter Johnson.

Actually, I don't think George could get elected today anyway. We don't have an election anymore. We've gone back to the old system where the old king appoints his successor and his successor appoints his successor and so on. That's the way it seems to me. I don't remember voting for Jerry. I don't even remember getting a chance to vote against him.

Much less, Rocky. Speaking of Rocky, we've even rewritten the Golden Rule saying, "Those with the gold make the rules." You know, the way things are going, we might as well have gone right ahead and drunk that tea.

Now the mark of a true genious is his ability to make great contributions to humanity in widely diverse fields. Such a man was Carl Emhoff. Well, as you all realize, he invented the sewage treatment plants that are in almost universal use in this country. They're called Emhoff Tanks in his honor—if you can call that an honor. His greatest contribution was in the field of the humanities where he stated the fundamental law of administrative succession. This is also named for him. Many of you are familiar with Parkinson's Law which states that the number of administrative employes in an agency grows in inverse proportion to the agency's output or the need for it's services. Now this is merely a corrollary of Emhoff's Law which states that in administration, as in sewage treatment plants, it's the scum that floats to the top.

One of the major problems we're facing today is, of course, the fact that, although we're living in an age of automation, most of us are not exposed to the wonders of engineering in school. Most educators have assumed that if you knew about Columbus and George Washington, and how to punctuate a sentence, and when to say, "I saw him" and when to say, "I seen him;" and how to say "Good Morning" and count to ten in Spanish, you're completely educated. Well, nothing could be farther from the truth. Although I won't have time this evening to tell you all the wonders of modern engineering, there are a few facts you might have been missing out on that I'd like to point out to you.

For example, I don't think there's anything that illustrates this need for technical education any better than this letter I recently received from a colleague at the University. It says: "Dwight: The reason it is finally beginning to get warm is that people are finally beginning to turn on their air conditioners. Just put your hand near the exhaust of the air conditioner and see how much heat it gives off. In addition they run on electricity and everybody knows how much heat a power plant gives off to the river and up the smoke stack. If you doubt me, just wait until September. People will start turning off their air conditioners and it will begin getting cold again."

Now I'd like to give you a completely unbiased summary of the various engineering fields, which is something you can't even get in college these days. The reason for this is we have chemical engineers teaching chemical engineering; civil engineers teaching civil engineering; and electrical engineers teaching electrical engineering, and that is no way to get an unbiased summary!

So I would like to begin my discussion of electrical engineering by pointing out some of the advantages we would have if we didn't have electricity. Now it seems to me the biggest advantage if we didn't have any electricity would be we wouldn't have any electrical engineers. Another big advantage would be you could stick your finger in a wall socket without getting a shock. Another big safety feature would be that car lights wouldn't blind you on the highway at night. But enough of this wishful thinking. We've got electricity, so we might as well learn about it. Although I personally wish Benjamin Franklin had stuck to selling magazines.

Electricity comes out of the clouds in the form of lightning and it runs down the hills, into the rivers, out the rivers, into the oceans where it evaporates back into the clouds to come down as lightning somewhere else, thus completing the cycle. One way to get ahold of the stuff is put a power plant on the river that can filter out the electricity. Then you can push it into the wires and send it some place to be used.

Since electricity is heavier than water, all you got to do is put it in a big turbine wheel and the electricity is automatically thrown to the outside by the centrifical force, kind of like a cream separater. Then you wipe it off with devices called brushes.

In some places rivers do not have a very rich mixture of electricity, so it is necessary to build a big dam and stockpile a lot of water in order to make it economical to have a power plant there. But there's lots of politics involved in this because some people think the electricity in the water is public property and nobody has a right to use it except farmers or democrats.

While we're on the subject of electricity, I might as well explain to you how television works. At the television studio, they stand these people they want to televise up in front of these big electric lights. They squirt this electricity out at them and it bounces off and then back into a funnel arrangement called a camera. This gets very hot and uncomfortable so they either have to pay these people a lot of money or use old movies and reruns. Anyway at the television transmitter, they pump this electricity into the top of a high tower and squirt it out in all directions. Obviously the higher the tower they have the more head they have and the farther they can squirt it. Of course there's another reason to get the tower high. You've got to get the red lights up high enough so the airplanes can see them so they won't run into the tower. For you skeptics, I'd like to invite you on a trip to the Manhattan, Kansas, Municipal Airport. Because at the end of the runway are five power poles which are lighted by runway obstruction lights to warn the pilots of the presence of these power poles. Now the only service of the power poles is to carry a power line to the runway obstruction lights.

I'm sure you all know what steam is. It's the smoke that comes off hot water. Why study about steam?

What is steam good for? Well, it's used for pressing pants. It's used for making mashed potatoes and green beans soggy at cafeterias. You know, there really isn't as much demand for steam as there used to be. There's lots of things that we used to use steam for that we don't anymore—like running locomotives such as you've seen in fenced enclosures in city parks. When I was a boy those used to run on tracks just like diesels. We also used steam pretty regularly for blowing up boilers. We used to use steam for running threshing machines before we got combines and soil banks. And Sir James Watt who invented steam used to take the lid off a tea kettle. After he solved the tea kettle lid, he went to manufacturing light bulbs. Others took up where he left off.

Eli Whitney used steam to make gin out of cotton. Steam was used for heating large buildings, but had a basic disadvantage because people had to keep banging on the pipes for more heat until this ingenious janitor invented the device called a water hammer which can be installed in the pipes and does all the knocking for you. The device is still used in most steam heating systems today.

Now what you get when you boil water depends primarily on where you got the water. If you take the water out of Lake Michigan, you're going to get steam like we're advertising here. But if you took water out of the Arkansas River, that is so hard you would get mostly rocks. The Arkansas River, by the way, was declared a navigable stream and put under the control of the corps of engineers. Now it was seven years ago, a guy proved it was navigable—he rode a motorcycle up the bed from Wichita to Hutchinson.

Let's move right on to a discussion of the internal combustion engine. This is a very interesting device. I'm sure you're all familiar with the reflex action which would cause you to jerk your finger back if someone stuck a lighted match on the end of it. This is the principle operation of the internal combustion engine. You shove this piston up into this tube and then you set off a gasoline fire right on the end of it which obviously makes the piston jerk back. And then, by having a funny elbow arrangement called a crank shaft, you can change that jerking motion into a smooth, surging, dynaflow getaway power. A variation of this principle is used in jet airplanes.

A Wing Commander Whipple took an old airplane and threw away the engine to make it lighter, and then he lit a fire in the tail which made it want to get away—which I'm sure you could understand if your pants had ever been on fire. By putting a tube through it, kinda like a horizontal chimney, to get plenty of draft through it, they developed aircraft that are attaining tremendous speeds. In fact they're going so fast now that engineers have to worry about the heat barrier, which is where the friction of the air rubbing against the outside of the plane gets the plane hot all over, but especially on the nose—which obviously defeats the purpose of a fire in the tail!

Speaking of jet airplanes, 100 years ago if a man wanted to go from New York to San Francisco, he got on a stagecoach, strapped his luggage on the roof and weeks or even months later he arrived at his final destination.

Now you can board a modern jet in New York and virtually race the sun to San Francisco—and weeks or even months later your luggage arrives strapped on the roof of a stagecoach.

In the last few minutes, in closing, liberal arts majors, social scientists and philosophers are expressing growing concern over the rapid technological advancements that we're making today. They want us to declare a moratorium on engineering research till they've had a chance to stop and catch up. They haven't mastered the idea of fire and the wheel, yet. And here we are fooling around with outer space. But I think what they really ought to be worried about is this guy who has been talking to porpoises. I think what he's going to find out could really shake things up. You see science has claimed for quite awhile that whales and porpoises and dolphins are higher on the evolutionary scale, have better developed brains than humans. But since they don't have any thumbs, why, they can't build anything or write. Well, the guy has been talking to porpoises and he has found that he can understand what they say if he records it and plays it back real slow. In other words some dumb fish talk so fast we couldn't understand them. I can just see: some porpose escapes from Marineland, goes back out into the ocean, tells the rest of those porpoises a story like "Mowgli, the Wolfboy—I was raised among humans." Maybe they came to Marineland as missionaries in the first place. You see it's never really been proved to my satisfaction whether those trainers have actually taught those porpoises to jump for fish or whether the porpoises have been teaching the trainers to throw fish!

Thank you very much.

DWIGHT A. NESMITH *is currently Director of Cooperative Education for the College of Engineering at Kansas State University. A native of Kechi, Kansas, he received his BSME from the Technological Institute at Northwestern University and his Master of Science degree from Kansas State University. Among other things, he has been employed with the State of Kansas Community Industrial Development Program, directed the Kansas Engineering Experiment Station, and worked for Cudahy Packing Company and General Motors. Nesmith has, for a number of years, given humorous "after dinner" talks based on his somewhat distorted views of history, engineering, and children's literature.*

"Presenting the Challenge"
—Dixie B. Talbot

From these discussion areas, several points of agreement were reached as well as several areas being left open for solutions or agreements to evolve.

1. Specialized services to minorities, handicapped citizens, and prisons was an active area of conversation. General agreement was reached on necessity to reach these segments of the population but with agreement that cultural awareness programs and outreach programs are both necessary. The use of facts and figures is needed to present needs to trustees—know your clientele. There is a definite need of publicity of available resources. Cooperation with mail carriers to take these materials to patrons is a vital aspect of the problem. The National Federation for Blind wanted to go on record as favoring change of control in their materials from the Nebraska Library Commission to the Services for the Visually Impaired. The other members of same group and another discussion group favored retention of this in NLC.
2. Publicity and public relations was the one area agreed upon as needing immense improvement across the state. In some cases there was a question of whether we are dealing with a limited resource problem or with an under-utilization of available resources. Better public relations needs to be carried on with the governing bodies in order to receive larger budgets. An intense publicity campaign to the potential patron through the media, word of mouth, churches, etc. needs to be undertaken by a combination of librarian/library board. NLC can pool success stories and disseminate them to libraries.
3. Continuing and adult education seemed to be a topic new to the present citizens. The field was broadly defined as fulfilling one's potential. A great deal of cooperation between trustees, NEMA, NLA, ACEAN is needed to know what services libraries need to provide to support continuing education.
4. Non-book materials was seen as an area where more needs assessment studies are required. Non-books materials are important but the group was uncertain exactly what each community desired. Availability of non-print materials (particularly films) needs to be distributed by someone. It was suggested that more cooperation between public and school media centers and Education Service Units could take place to better utilize the available materials now. The networks could do for the Public Libraries what the ESU's are doing for schools. They felt cooperation rotation of non-print materials could be implemented along with workshops training librarians about non-print materials.
5. The financial discussion group felt that the Commission needed to be responsible for information on Federal funds and available state aid to the local level. Help from the regional library is necessary for making requests. The group felt the librarian needed to be more active in local government and to challenge the board to support the library budget more. The group felt that all librarians could profit from workshops on political lobbying. This discussion group wanted to go on record as saying that if more support was requested from the state, citizens should actively lobby for more financial support to NLC and State Department of Education.
6. The total area of cooperation was explored from every viewpoint with many of the real problems of working under two different boards, different types of clients, and personality problems coming into view. A plan of action was devised. (1) assess collections in community, (2) have a liaison person from State Dept. of Education, and (3) council members become ex-officio members of library boards and school boards. Another problem of slow interlibrary loan was voiced showing more concern for improved cooperation. Some felt that problems of cooperation would be lessened if more of the smaller communities had trained librarians. Question of support by state to provide professionals was raised.
7. For the most part, the rules groups felt libraries should loosen up their formal atmosphere with more lenient lending regulations, fewer rules, telephone renewals and with more emphasis on getting patron into library by improving public image, smiling, orientation program, auditoriums, etc. It was felt smaller communities need to raise salaries to obtain qualified librarians and thus be able to offer more.
8. Limited resources was cited as a general problem but underutilization of available resources was just

as great. Most felt the groups should educate librarians more on budget preparation and fund raising. More cooperation between public and school libraries was cited along with a greater utilization of volunteer help. **The key to limited resources is to have the staff to sell the library and to instruct patron how to use it; then more will come.**

9. A general agreement on service to business and labor was agreed upon with some inclination for businesses to help pay the librarian when extensive research is done. The importance of the librarians going out into businesses and labor areas to advance their services was stressed. Assessments of local needs is necessary. The possibility of holding mini-conferences or Mayor's Conferences to take results of this conference back to the community was suggested.

10. Public participation in planning was stressed. Citizens should be aware of means of input through boards and through personal contact. More volunteer help would involve the public more. But final authority rests with board and librarian.

11. The question of libraries being in multi-function buildings was raised and agreed upon by the library architecture and planning group. Libraries can profit by being close to other traffic areas. More libraries should look into renovating buildings instead of building new. It was felt that funding is inadequate but that to get more funding, elected officials and electorate need to get involved via the grass roots method. Legislature should establish a minimum mill levy for libraries.

12. Geographically, the group decided that library service needs to be available to all segments of both rural and city. However equalization of opportunity of service but not necessarily uniformity of services is desired. Control for local libraries should remain locally with more supportive staff coming from state.

13. The discussion group on control of libraries felt a feasibility study needed to be done on multi-county libraries particularly in outstate. This group also felt an equalization of opportunity for library service should be attempted with state money being supplemented.

14. The duplication of services committee felt more cooperation to eliminate duplication could take place either voluntarily or involuntarily. Non-voluntary model would probably cause a massive reorganization at local level. This group also felt an ad hoc state committee from this conference could suggest new methods of cooperation. More care in selection of librarians is needed at local levels and thus with a more qualified staff, more cooperation would come. The duplication in associations serving librarians was also noted as a problem.

15. Universal clientele committee along with several others discussed the feasibility of an All-Nebraska library card. They also felt counties should group together to provide at least one professional among them to train local staffs. More support needs to come from counties to help serve rural patrons. It was agreed that all segments must be served.

Three ideas were apparent in all the discussions – more cooperation, more publicity, and a universal library card system of some kind. At the same time in-service training for librarians via workshops, mini-conferences, NET, cultural awareness programs was desired by the groups to come from the state so more of these ideas could be implemented. Qualified librarians were seen as the answer in many groups to many of the problems. All of the last areas were seen as areas where more state help was needed through either NLC or State Department of Education. Several groups resolved to work for more funds for these two groups so that control could remain on the local level but with more professional help from the state.

DIXIE B. TALBOT *spends much of her time writing and doing research in the field of professional librarianship. She obtained a Master of Librarianship degree from Kansas State Teachers College. She was employed by the University of Nebraska Libraries as Order Librarian, Undergraduate Librarian, and then Assistant Director for Public Services. She has been very active in the Nebraska Library Association; her positions have included Special Events Chairperson, Convention Chairperson, and Publicity Chairperson for the annual convention.*

"Charge to Participants"
Charles W. Stelling

I think at this point it is good for us to realize that what we need to do is to think back over the past two days and then turn right around and look toward the future. If you will recall, yesterday Governor Exon honored us by giving us the history leading up to the conference. He further explained the reasons for calling the conference. He began by focusing our attention on some of the concerns; he specifically eluded to education, reading, industrial needs, adult education, the use of leisure. He indicated that this was to be a working conference and it is obvious from the report which Dixie just concluded that it was a working conference. A conference he said in which we would make suggestions for change. I think we can honestly say we have shown this. Mrs. Ihrig told us to become politicians, "make the wheels go round," she said. "Be assertive, use our 'clout'." She noted that we are to identify community demands, and adjust to meet them. Our bicentennial contribution should be to find out what librarians can do to assert our right to services, to continue to show our concern for the individual. We are also to work at improving the library image, the appearance, the use, the variety of materials and the services.

Lieutenant Governor Whelan suggested that we need to know more about the problems that we're involved with. We need to develop an affirmative action program. We need to go out, to find out. We need an open door policy, which invites the user to come in. Dixie just concluded, very aptly I believe, a summary of our work. She tried to capsulize what we propose as solutions of the fifteen concerns that were identified by the library survey.

So, now what? Where do we, that is you and I, go from here? Perhaps we need to reflect just a bit more. What happened to you and to me in the past few days? I suspect that each of us came here with a purpose – to voice our opinion with regard to our concern. I suspect we did just that. But, I also believe that each of us did a great deal of learning during the past two days. We found out about things that are ongoing. We found about things that have been tried, that are being tried. We found out about new innovative solutions. We perhaps learned things about technology that we didn't know before and how it applies to library services. Perhaps we've learned that we need a better public relations program. No matter what, we did learn a great deal. So, again I ask, now what? Where do we, that is you and I, go from here?

I would like to call your attention to two publications. First, **People Serving People.** The ultimate goal set forth in this document is and I quote, "total library service for each Nebraskan." I would like to read a few more quotes from the introduction, because I think they're very apropos here. "The implementation of total library service for each Nebraskan will need the total involvement of all institutions. Each has the role in the total services and each can identify his objectives in the terms of the total population. **People Serving People** is the result of a planning process aimed at development of library services requiring libraries to co-exist with one another. The basic idea is to make libraries available to all individuals. All types of libraries must eventually become involved in the integrated system by receiving state and federal funds to supplement and expand services already provided. This will lead to the ultimate in library service. That is total library service for each Nebraskan." One of the goals of the conference, and you can check your program, was to update this manual and we hope that with all the information we have that we can meet this objective.

The second publication that I would like to call to your attention is this document – **Toward a National Program of Library and Informational Services: Goals for Action.** I call this to your attention and urge you to read it, because as a result of this conference we now have additional information we can contribute to a possible White House Conference. If it does occur, we have the information at hand and we can go there prepared. Further, I think this document helps us to focus more clearly on Nebraska's responsibility and involvement in the National Information Services Program.

So for the third time I ask you, now what? Where do we, you and I, go from here? As Shirley indicated, in addition to my responsibility as Chairman of the Library Advisory Council, which is primarily charged as I indicated with updating the goals in **People Serving People,** I have agreed to be Chairperson of the follow-up committee of this conference. Our

committee has met and we've analyzed this question, where do we go from here? We concluded that all of us here today are involved. All of us need to help implement the proposed solutions the best we can throughout Nebraska – in the school media centers, public libraries, special libraries, academic libraries. All of us need to take this information that we've gotten over the past two days and help inform all Nebraskans what happened here in Lincoln at the Governor's Conference.

Our committee believes there are several ways to distribute this information, informing both librarians and non-librarians. One method, very obviously, is by word of mouth. Thus we will be able to relate the activities of this conference to those that we come in contact with and we must do so. We plan a more formal method and we suggest working with the Nebraska State Educational Association through their regional meetings. We suggest working through the Media Family Affairs, Nebraska Library Association, and Nebraska Educational Media Association. We further propose working through the regional networks and the educational service units. Also we need to explore the use of educational television. Perhaps a series, it was suggested this morning, on library media services could be beamed out through the network.

Contrary to the comment which was made by one of the speakers yesterday, you have been asked for your input. But you are also being asked, that is each one of you, to help to continue to contribute when you get home. Our plan is to have informational meetings throughout the state, somewhere near where you live. When we do, we hope to ask each of you to assist in either making a presentation to the group at these meetings or by serving as a resource person. The committee believes that we have to use both print and non-print in this information dissemination program and we hope to put together an audio-visual presentation on the conference which will capture the results of these two days work. I am told that some of you have asked why we have been taping with video-tape and audio-tape. This is part of the reason; we intend to put this together to use it as a presentation in the follow-up procedure. We have also eluded to the print aspect, the proceedings which will be made available to you and would like to use these throughout the state. As far as the time schedule is concerned, the follow-up committee feels that we can't do much this summer so we would like to really pick up this and meet the challenge this fall during September, October, and November. We hope to have more information forthcoming.

By now from what I've said, I suspect that you know your charge, at least in part. So when you get back home, make it a point to inform people of the Governor's Conference. Tell people what went on, tell the newspapers, the media, invite people to come and visit with you. Later this fall help the follow-up committee and its planned information dissemination program. Attend the meetings, encourage librarians, library media people and non-library media people to attend. In addition to the dissemination of information each of us needs to do some politicking. This was pointed out several different times. Talk to the decision makers, the board members, the legislature. Inform them of the concerns, the proposed solutions. Strive for development and cooperation. Finally each of us needs to work for funding on both the local and the state levels, to implement the solutions we have proposed for here in these last two days. There was one group, as you will recall, who went on record supporting this charge, underlining it. So in summary our charge as I see it, to us as participants, is to disseminate the information about this conference, both formally and informally; to politic for library media services; and to work for local and state funding. And more important to help implement these services for better library service throughout the state of Nebraska. Thank you.

CHARLES W. STELLING *is the Director of Information Services, Wayne State College. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Concordia Teachers College and his M.A. degree in Library Science from the University of Minnesota. Stelling has also been an elementary school teacher. Before accepting his present position he was Assistant Library Director at St. Cloud, Minnesota. He also serves on the Northern Library Network Advisory Council and is Chairperson of the State Advisory Council on Libraries.*

A CHANCE TO SPEAK OUT!

CITIZEN CHALLENGE ONE

LIBRARIES NEED TO OFFER MORE INDIVIDUALIZED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICES.

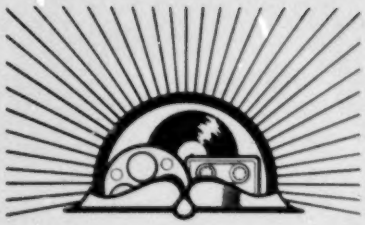
What services should libraries provide for Chicanos, Indians, and other ethnic groups; inmates of state institutions; blind and/or physically handicapped persons, mentally retarded persons, and the elderly?
How are these people identified? And contacted?
What forms of delivery of library services can be most effective?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Assess needs of the community regarding minority, ethnic and other special groups; *incorporate* services of volunteers who are members of the special groups in the community; *maximize* use of outreach, bookmobile and mail-a-book programs taking care to include print and non-print materials of interest to the special groups; *utilize* interlibrary loan procedures extensively to strengthen less developed cultural collections; *observe and publicize* holidays that commemorate the cultural heritage of groups in the community; *provide* educational and recreational materials for residents of state institutions; *extend* services to blind and physically handicapped persons through outreach, interlibrary loan as well as through the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; *strive* for professional staff, efficient techniques and modern equipment in libraries; *intensify* the campaign for financial support; *broaden* the support from local and state governmental bodies.

PARTICIPANTS

Sue Spicer, Lincoln
Richard Allgood, Jr., Lincoln
Marilyn Berg, Omaha
Mrs. Edwin Eilts, Fairbury
Dr. Joe Aguilar, Lincoln
Mrs. Eldon Bull, Wayne
Mary Ann Dobrovolny, Hastings
Senator Gerald D. Koch, Ralston
Mrs. Louis Moody, Norfolk
Mrs. Karen Baisinger, Laurence
Nancy Stepp, Lincoln
Mrs. Frank Cherry, Harrison
Vance D. Rogers, Lincoln
John Smith, Lincoln
Edward LaCrosse, Omaha
Eileen Smith, Hay Springs
Betty Werner, Cozad
Vern Buis, Lincoln
Royal Clark, Columbus
Galen Dodge, Lincoln
Fern Heim, Lincoln



CITIZEN CHALLENGE TWO

IN GENERAL, LIBRARIES HAVE DONE A POOR JOB OF MAKING THE PUBLIC AWARE OF THE LIBRARY SERVICES THAT ARE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE.

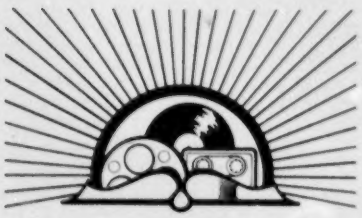
Should the state library agency assume the leadership in a statewide publicity and public relations program? How can the importance of publicity be taught to librarians? What forms of media are best noticed by the general public? How can libraries make use of these forms of media? What types of services should be publicized and how? What about the non-user?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Establish a statewide publicity and public relations program using public and private media; *provide* a library card for statewide use; *sensitize* library staff to the importance of publicity and the need for it; *maximize* the use of television in publicizing library programs, events and materials; *screen* potential staff members regarding willingness and ability to promote a positive public image; *incorporate* print and non-print materials in promoting library services; *establish* a public relations committee from local citizens who can spearhead a public relations program on the community level; *strive* to construct a positive and pleasant image through the library's atmosphere, service and decor.

PARTICIPANTS

Maxine Kessinger, Bancroft
Paul Borge, Omaha
Marilee Thorburn, Norfolk
Oscar Schroeter, Norfolk
Dr. Henry P. Beatty, Central City
Dolores Lux, Shelby
Mrs. Kenneth Rose, Lincoln
Judy Hermsen, Lincoln
Shirley Maly, Lincoln
Dore O'Kelly, Lincoln
Sandra Seh, Bellevue
Hazel Stewart, Curtis
Bertha Calloway, Omaha
Jackie Grace, Valentine
Edith M. Vaughan, Omaha
Dick Corwine, Omaha
Frank Gibson, Omaha
Ruth Warner, Columbus
Jerry Kaup, Holdrege
Lucky Waugh, Norfolk
Joel Davis, Lincoln



CITIZEN CHALLENGE THREE

BY DEFINITION, LIBRARIES ARE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BUT IN MANY CASES THE PUBLIC MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN SEARCHING OUT THIS EDUCATIONAL HELP.

Should libraries be more involved with continuing education? Who has the responsibility for providing the illiterate with educational opportunities? What can be done to help the non-English speaking person? Is the public library or the academic library the place to provide continuing education programs for adults who have completed their formal education? If so, what should be provided and how? At the university level, are the librarians and the instructors working together to see that the library materials are coordinated with the classroom assignments? Should school libraries assume part of the responsibility for the education of the drop-out?

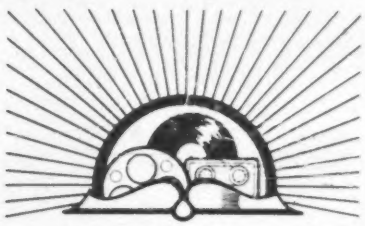
LIBRARY CHARGE

Engage in continuing education ventures in cooperation with other agencies; *promote* cooperation between school and public libraries while maintaining local control; *organize* joint efforts among the Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Library Association, Adult and Continuing Education Association of Nebraska, and Nebraska Educational Media Association to

promote and support continuing education; *engage* in self-education endeavors through library-sponsored reading programs; *publicize* facilities and resources through participation in community, county, regional and statewide events.

PARTICIPANTS

Margaret Masters, Syracuse
Mrs. James Gilbert, Falls City
William Truesdale, Cozad
Margaret Clay, Taylor
Curtis Sederburg, Lincoln
Julius Humann, Lincoln
Esther Hamon, Lincoln
Mrs. Morris F. Miller, Omaha
Jene Hagler, Lincoln
Kathleen Johnson, Omaha
Loretta Draper, Plattsmouth
Dr. Mary Jane Even, Lincoln
Leonard Hill, Lincoln
Camila Chavez, McCook
Gabriele Cope, Lincoln
Emma Jane Wilder, Kearney
G. A. Rudolph, Lincoln
Morel Fry, Lincoln
Debbie Cnristenson, Lincoln
Sheila Wall, Lincoln



CITIZEN CHALLENGE FOUR

LIBRARIES NEED TO BE PURCHASING MORE NON-BOOK MATERIALS AND DOING MORE PROGRAMMING WITH THESE MATERIALS.

What does the user want? The usage of films has greatly increased, how can this service be improved? What types of non-books materials should be provided for home usage? Should libraries be developing audio-visual programs related to each community, its past, present, and future? Could better service in areas such as occupational training, crafts, or family services be provided through the use of non-book materials?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Circulate nonprint materials such as art prints, microfilm of newspapers, recordings, films, filmstrips, sewing patterns, cameras, typewriters, costumes, toy collections, pets and any equipment necessary to use the materials; *increase* use of existing nonprint materials; *provide* information and supplemental materials for occupational and craft programs for all age levels; *share* nonprint materials within networks; *rotate* nonprint materials among networks; *maintain* core collections of nonprint materials in larger libraries to be shared with smaller libraries; *store* duplicate copies of materials; *coordinate* use of nonprint materials between schools and libraries; *create and maintain* a directory of available nonprint materials; *emulate* in networks and libraries what educational service units do for schools; *teach* library staff and users how to use nonprint materials and equipment.

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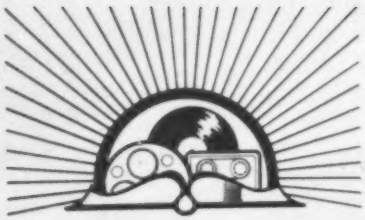

CITIZEN CHALLENGE FIVE

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS OF LIBRARIES RELATES TO SUCH THINGS AS OLD FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT, UNDER QUALIFIED STAFFING, AND BUDGET CUTS COUPLED WITH PRICE INCREASES AND INABILITY TO PROVIDE NEW SERVICES.

Public libraries are limited to three mills, county libraries at two mills. Should libraries be locked into this figure? Funds to institutions of higher education are often receiving cuts. When libraries cannot afford to hire professional staffs, what are the alternatives? Whose responsibility is this? If more monies are needed to provide adequate library service, is the public prepared to back the libraries in the drive for more financial support? What are the priorities in terms of where the available monies must be spent? Libraries are eligible for revenue sharing but, in fact, receive very little from this funding source? Schools must have media centers or libraries but in many cases there is not funding to adequately support them.

LIBRARY CHARGE

Inform public of financial needs on local and state levels; *raise* the three mill levy; *split* financial responsibility in thirds: 1/3 local, 1/3 state, 1/3 federal; *command* legislative attention to library funding; *maximize* use of revenue sharing funds; *enter* the political arena on state, county and city levels to champion support for libraries; *educate* staffs of libraries in salesmanship; *maximize* use of public television to create interest in and awareness of library needs; *command* attention of library boards to ensure support for funding requests; *apply* for all available federal monies; *seek* assistance from the Nebraska Library Commission to determine funding opportunities and to complete applications; *distribute* "want" lists throughout the community to inform prospective donors of library needs.

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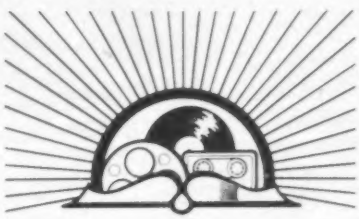

CITIZEN CHALLENGE SIX

BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONS USING MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF LIBRARY, LIBRARIES MUST WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE LIBRARY SERVICE.

Are libraries spending too much money on materials that are duplicated someplace else? Are these expenditures necessary because of the specific clientele served? What types of cooperative library programs could be initiated to better serve the public? Would an all-Nebraska library card improve the accessibility of materials or does interlibrary loan serve this purpose? Much of the public uses private libraries such as church and technical libraries; should other libraries begin making more advances toward communications with these libraries?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Decrease expense for materials duplicated

elsewhere; *maximize* use of school libraries during the summer, evenings and weekends; *consider* a common board governing school and public libraries; *consider* state funding for summer staff; *increase* "fun" collections in public libraries; *improve* research collections in school libraries; *entrust* decisions of appropriateness of materials to the community; *publicize* uses of the Union Catalog; *improve* accessibility of materials by making available an all-library card; *improve* communication among public, school and private libraries; *stress* publicizing both the needs and the services of the library.

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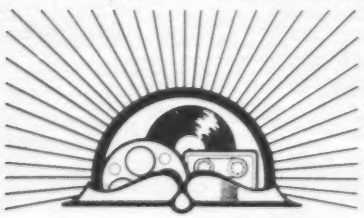

CITIZEN CHALLENGE SEVEN

LIBRARIES MAY BE LIMITING THEIR EFFECTIVENESS BECAUSE OF OUTDATED PRACTICES.

Are all rules used in libraries necessary or just a part of tradition? What would happen if they were eliminated? (examples – fines, restricted materials, no talking signs). Often requested things are listening rooms, beverage dispensers, and public use typewriters. Do these types of things belong in a library? Anything else?
Is the atmosphere of the library too formal? In order to insure that the public receives the most up-to-date type of library service, should compulsory training programs for non-degreed librarians be established? Should librarians be certified in the same way as public school teachers? Would the use of informational signs and directions in the library be helpful to the patron? What types? Should libraries offer instruction in library techniques to the public?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Seek alternatives to fines for overdue or lost books; *use* carpeting and room arrangement to eliminate the need for "No Talking" signs; *include* additional equipment in the library, such as copy machines, typewriters, audio-visual equipment, play areas or play pens, lawn and garden tools, mini-bookstore; *use* volunteer help and donations to pay for the "extras" in the library; *relax* the atmosphere of the library through friendly personnel, orientation programs for the public, and promotion of the library as a social center; *set* standards for librarian training and certification; *provide* workshops for librarian training; *design* libraries to provide for the needs of the different segments of the community.

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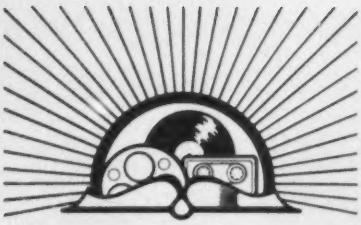

CITIZEN CHALLENGE EIGHT

LIMITED RESOURCES CONTINUES TO BE THE MOST MENTIONED PROBLEM FACING LIBRARIES AND THE CITIZENS WHO NEED THESE MATERIALS.

If interlibrary loan were used to its greatest capacity, would this problem be solved? If more materials are to be purchased to meet public demand, how will the additional funding that is needed be obtained? Are libraries using present funding to obtain the most needed and requested materials? Do libraries really seek citizen input? Are legal barriers hampering the exchange of information?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Maximize use of the available tax dollar for library services; *insure* that members of library boards are fully cognizant of facts about local mill levy and preparation of library budgets; *advertise* services of the library; *investigate* methods of increasing publicity for libraries; *increase* cooperation between school and public libraries; *prepare* both audio and visual materials explaining concisely and explicitly the responsibilities of library boards including suggestions for meeting those responsibilities; *expand* the interlibrary loan service; *advertise* interlibrary loan service as well as all library services.

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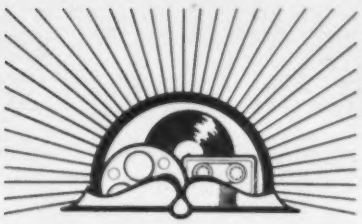

CITIZEN CHALLENGE NINE

BUSINESS AND LABOR INFORMATIONAL NEEDS ARE NOT BEING ADEQUATELY MET.

What are the special informational needs of the business and labor community? How can this information be disseminated rapidly? What kinds of facilities are needed to meet these needs? Do libraries keep the working person from using the library because of inadequate hours? How can the business and labor worlds be best informed about available services?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Survey mutual needs of the community and the libraries and *use* the information as a public relations instrument; *distribute* information to local business people through public television announcements, articles in newspapers, letters to the editor, new book lists and book marks; *assist* with public relations and outreach library programs; *promote* the library as a vital link in the continuing education process; *reach* out to serve the local business community; *develop* a greater public image as both librarian and citizen.

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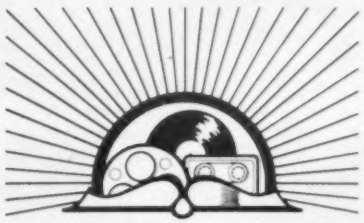

CITIZEN CHALLENGE TEN

THE GENERAL PUBLIC WANTS TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN LIBRARY PLANNING.

Most public libraries have some citizen input through library boards. What about other types of libraries? What type of structure is needed to involve more citizens? How are individual needs determined? How much power should the public have in determining library policy and procedure?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Publicize membership of the library board; *encourage* citizen input to board meetings; *utilize* local organizations such as Friends of the Library, women's clubs and Jaycees, as sources of valuable input from citizens; *involve* the city council in library promotion; *engage* volunteers to gather citizen input; *determine* public needs and preferences through personal questionnaires and media surveys; *publicize* advantages of citizen contributions to decision-making concerning libraries.

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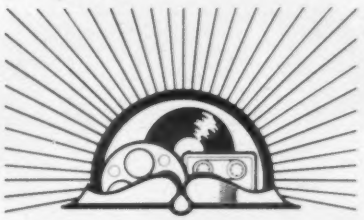

CITIZEN CHALLENGE ELEVEN

MORE TIME NEEDS TO BE DEVOTED TO PLANNING LIBRARY BUILDINGS THAT MEET THE COMMUNITIES' FUTURE NEEDS.

Besides the direct library functions, what other functions should be served by library buildings? Where should the financial support come from—local, state, federal? How can the public be more involved in the planning? What services does the public want that would demand specific structural requirements? Should library facilities be combined with those of other service type agencies? What are the alternatives to building a new facility when such is needed?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Offer non-traditional services such as film-viewing, closed circuit television, tool and game

circulation, meeting rooms, art galleries, crafts and recreation; *obtain* grass roots support as a bulwark to library funding; *establish* a minimum mill levy for libraries; *involve* the public in planning library facilities; seek public opinion; *determine* if library facilities are best suited to needs of the community if combined with other public agencies in one large facility; *consider* visibility and accessibility in determining location of a library; *remember* alternatives to new buildings for libraries, such as renovation of existing structures or sharing multipurpose facilities.

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Mrs. Harvey Larson, St. Edward
Lois Broady, Lincoln
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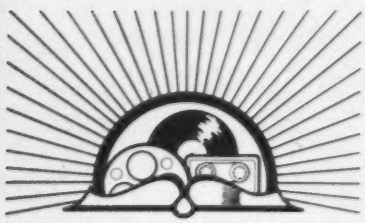

CITIZEN CHALLENGE TWELVE

NEBRASKA IS A RURAL STATE WITH GEOGRAPHICAL DISTANCES HAMPERING THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.

When there is no local library, what other types of library services are desirable and economically feasible? Who pays for this? Would better cooperation among different types of libraries make information more accessible to the rural resident? Could the publications provided by other organizations or agencies serve to inform the rural residents about library services? What can be done to equalize the availability of materials? At the present time, many rural residents are using libraries outside of their tax support base. In fact these persons do not provide tax support to any local, county or regional library. Is this fair?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Meet needs of children for educational materials; *determine* equitable tax base for funding libraries; *concentrate* on improvement in school and public library cooperation; *expand* existing services through effective publicity; *improve* cooperation among libraries and equalization of services through introduction of a statewide library card.

PARTICIPANTS

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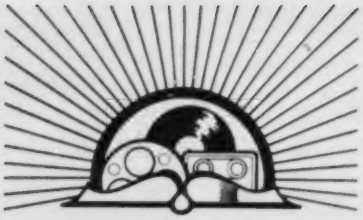

CITIZEN CHALLENGE THIRTEEN

MANY LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT PRESENTLY ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF LIBRARIES.

What powers should the Nebraska Library Commission have over local libraries—advisory or governing? The regulations connected with federal grants for libraries restrict cooperative programming. Should all state programs concerned with library legislation be combined? Most public libraries are presently governed by a board. Would they be better served if they were managed as a city department? School a public libraries are governed by separate boar or agencies, even though their tax support comes from basically the same source. Most a types of libraries have restrictions on the accessibility of their material by the patrons ir geographical areas. If libraries continue to be governed in such diverse manners, should legislation be written to provide for more cooperation and sharing?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Investigate all available sources of funding for libraries; *emphasize* use of libraries to enrich educational experiences; *utilize* a statewide library card system as a vehicle for state reimbursement to libraries based on circulation of items; *improve* public relations and services to the community through better publicity about existing services; *emphasize* the library as a community cultural center; *provide* both functional and entertaining opportunities for citizens in the library service community; *improve* standards for libraries; establish a training program for library staff and board members; *improve* the statewide and local public relations of libraries; *employ* a legal adviser who would serve as a lobbyist for library concerns and as legal counsel when necessary; *maintain* materials for library service for handicapped persons at the Library Commission.

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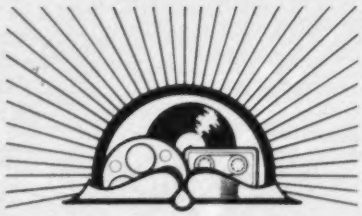

CITIZEN CHALLENGE FOURTEEN

MANY PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCIES, INCLUDING LIBRARIES, OFFER SIMILAR SERVICES; THESE SERVICES NEED TO BE COMBINED OR COORDINATED.

How are all state and local public service agencies to become more aware of each others services? Would the exchange of personnel make for more coordinated programs? Is money wasted because of duplication of services? Who should assume the responsibility for the coordination? What types of services could be combined?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Coordinate services with other public agencies to minimize duplication; *phase* out competition

and duplication of resources and services between schools and public libraries; *recognize* the important coordination and communication efforts of the Nebraska Library Commission in organizing library activities throughout the state; *seek* professional assistance to solve local library problems; *tailor* management of smaller libraries to the needs of the communities rather than to the methods of metropolitan libraries; *initiate* legislation calling for more explicit organizational structure and function of libraries; *suggest* specific number of years for service on library boards; *publicize* services of the libraries; *increase* accessibility of both services and resources through use of a universal identification card and greater use of electronic equipment.

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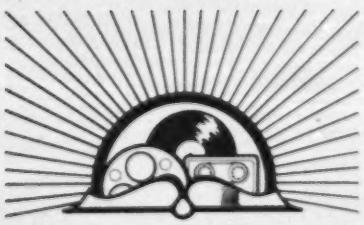

CITIZEN CHALLENGE FIFTEEN

LIBRARIES ARE CHARGED WITH PROVIDING MATERIALS FOR ALL SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION.

What can be done to make the library more useful for the community? How are individual needs to be identified? What about censorship? How can the public be urged to state its desires? Should more services, such as outreach programs, be conducted outside the library? Is lack of training in library techniques the reason many people cannot effectively use the library? Is information all the library has to offer?

LIBRARY CHARGE

Study ethnic, social and economic makeup of community; *strive* to meet specific needs of the groups identified in the community; *strive* to staff libraries with professionally educated librarians; *strive* to achieve a friendly, cheerful atmosphere in libraries through careful selection of staff and arrangement of facilities; *maximize* benefits of students' familiarization with libraries through school to increase student use of public libraries; *initiate* cooperative efforts between school and public libraries to avoid duplication of materials and to expand public use of school facilities.

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Mike Goff
Milford

Kay Graber
Lincoln

Judy Grandstaff
Blue Hill

Judy Green
Lincoln

Ardis Hall
Lincoln

Verne Haselwood
Omaha

Fern Heim
Lincoln

Van Henkle
Lincoln

Cliff Hollestell
Lincoln

Dale Holt
Lincoln

Rita Hug
Lincoln

W. O. Jacobsen
Columbus

Burt James
Hastings

Jack Kennedy
Lincoln

Reta King
Chadron

Susan Kling
Lincoln

Larry Kunkle
Lincoln

Ron Kurtzer
Lincoln

Gretchen Lainson
Hastings

Mary Leeper
Omaha

Charlene Lenz
Omaha

Dorothy Lessenhop
Lincoln

Dan Lester
Lincoln

Betty Lewis
Lincoln

Clifford Lowell
Holdrege

Karen Lusk
Lincoln

Ronald Martin
Kearney

Ray Means
Lincoln

Wes Mierhenry
Lincoln

Elmer Miller
Lincoln

Gretchen Naugle
Lincoln

Dick Neely
Lincoln

Ronald Norman
Kearney

Steve Ooton
Columbus

Susan Ooton
Columbus

Leroy Ortgiesen
Lincoln

Eunice Parrish
Tecumseh

Pete Petersen
Lincoln

Shirley Peterson
Amelia

Nancy Porter
Lincoln

Helen Quirk
Hastings

Vickie Radcliff
Lincoln

Walter Radcliff
Lincoln

Shirley Rauscher
Lincoln

Mary Reichel
Omaha

Margaret Roe
Endicott

Don Schrader
Lincoln

Dorothy Schwartzkopf
Lincoln

Jill Sack
Lincoln

Chris Salem
Lincoln

Connie Sashau
Imperial

Jeanne Seybold
Lincoln

Louise Shelledy
Lincoln

Pat Sloan
Lincoln

Nancy Stepp
Lincoln

James Sweetland
Omaha

Frances Thompson
Omaha

Sheila Wall
Lincoln

Hope Weaver
Neligh

Lisa Wilcox
Lincoln

Francine Williams
Kearney

Sharon Womack
Lincoln